

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 6, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 20 were allowed. Claims 8 and 14 were rejected. Claims 9-13 and 15-19 were objected to.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McCaslin et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,999,798. Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to include the limitations of objected to claims 10 and 17, respectively.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 9-13 and 15-19 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all elements and limitations of the base claim and any intervening dependent claims. Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to include the limitations of objected to claims 10 and 17, respectively. Claims 10 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 9 and 11-13 depend from amended independent claim 8, and contain all limitations thereof. Claims 15, 16, 18 and 19 depend from amended independent claim 14, and contain all limitations thereof.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-7 and 20 have been allowed.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

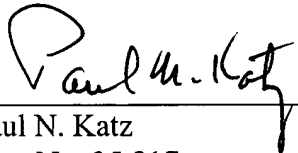
SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 068354.1338.**

Respectfully submitted,

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